

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 14428 032139Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14428

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM PMIL US UR
SUBJECT: CONTINUED SOVIET PRESS ON GROMYKO TALSK AND SALT II

REF: (A) MOSCOW 14067, (B) MOSCOW 14427

ATTN DIA SEE PARA 6 FOR IR FORMAT DATA

1. SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS REPORTS IN THE WAKE OF RECENT US-SOVIET SALT
DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON CONTINUE TO SPEAK OF THE PROGRESS ACHEIEVED
IN
NARROWING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SIDES AN
ARE SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC
REGARDING THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS VIA RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS
BY THE DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA. THESE MSSAGES ARE CONVEYED IN A TASS
REPORT ON PRES CARTER'S 29 SEP PRESS CONFERENCE, OREIGN MIN GROMYKO'S
TV INTERVIEW IN NEW YORK, A
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D V. BOL'SHAKOV'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK COLUMN
IN P ON 2 OCT.

2. THE TASS COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED
HIS COMMENTS THAT THE SOVIET POSITION HAD BEENMARKED BY "CONSIDERABLE
FLEXIBILITY" IN THE GROMYKO TALKS, AND THAT "SOME PROGRESS" HAD
BEEN ACHIEVED. IT ALSO NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS THAT DIS-

AGREEMENT HAD BEEN LIMITED TO A "NARROW CIRCLE" OF ISSUES, WHOSE RESOLUTION MAY REQUIRE A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME AND THAT THESE QUESTIONS

WILL NOT BE REFERRED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. FINALLY, TASS ALSO REPORTED THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT THAT US TESTING OF CRUISE MISSILES WILL CONTINUE IN PARALLEL WITH SALT II NEGOTIATIONS.

3. FOR MIN GROMYKO'S 1 OCT TV INTERVIEW CONTAINED HIS AMILAR FORMULATION THAT THE RECENT TALKS HAD PRODUCED "SOME FURTHER NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES OF THE POSITIONS OF THE SIDES." GROMYKO FURTHER CHARACTERIZED MATTERS AS "BETTER TODAY THAN YESTERDAY" AND HAVING "MOVED FORWARD." LIKE PRESIDENT CARTER, GROMYKO NOTED THAT SOME ISSUES ARE NOW BEING REFERRED TO THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA WHERE "SOME AND PERHAPS EVEN THE MAJORITY CAN BE WORKED OUT." ALSO, OF INTEREST ARE THE EDITORIAL CHANGES INTRODUCED BY TASS IN ITS COVERAGE OF GROMYKO'S TV REMARKS (SEPTEL).

4. V. BOL'SHAKOV'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK COLUMN IN OCT 2 PRAVDA WAS SIMILARLY UPBEAT. AFTER NOTING THE RECENT STAGNATION IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND ALLEGED US EFFORTS TO OBTAIN "UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE" IN SALT, HE SPOKE OF "SOME PROGRESS BEING ACHIEVED" AND THE "LESSENING OF DIFFERENCES IN THE POSITIONS OF THE SIDES." AS A RESULT OF THE GROMYKO-VANCE-CARTER TALKS. BOL'SHAKOV ALSO NOTED THAT A JOINT DECLARATION WAS ISSUED ON US AND SOVIET CONTINUED

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ADHERENCE TO THE ABM TREATY AND CHARACTERIZED THE US AND SOVIET UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS TO CONTINUE TO HONOR THE SALT I INTERIM AGREEMENT UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW SALT II AGREEMENT AS "EXTRAORDINARILY IMPORTANT". HE CLOSED WITH CRITICISM OF SEN JACKSON, THE US MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND OTHER OPPONENTS OF DETENTE WHO PROMOTE "REACTIONARY" POLICIES LIKE THE CRUISE MISSILES AND THE NEUTRON BOMB.

5. COMMENT: THUS SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF THE GROMYKO VISIT IN WASHINGTON CONTINUES TO ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE REGARDING SALT PROSPECTS WITHOUT PROVIDING ANY CLUE AS TO WHERE PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED OR HOW SOVIET "FLEXIBILITY" WAS EXHIBITED.

6. IR DATA: THIS IS IR NO 6 901 0965 77: 1. USSR (UR) 2. 6 901 0965 77 3. CONTINUED SOVIET PRESS REPORTING ON GROMYKO TALKS AN SALT II. (U) 4. OMITTED 5. 771001-02; 6. 771003; 7. 771001-02, MOSCOW USSR 8. CIR 1A(1)(D)9000/CONTS 9. C-3, 10. USDAO MOSCOW USSR (AIRA) 11. NO 12. EDWARD L. WARNER MAJ USAF AAIRA 13. RICHARD X. LARKIN BGEN USA DATT 14. PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, RED STAR USSR 15. DIRC-NO; GDS83. MATLOCK

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